

THE LIME-KILN CLUB.

BROTHER GARDNER CALLS FOR AN OLD-FASHIONED MEETING.

The Atmos of the Famous Aggregation Set Forth—An Application From the Buck Eye State Rejected—Other Proceedings of a Very Interesting Session.

"My friends," said Brother Gardner as the notes of the triangle calling the meeting to order ceased to echo through Paradise hall, "the present meeting of this club will be held in the old-fashioned way, and such numbers as are alive at the close will repair to the dining room and be regaled on several large and voluptuous late watermillions which have just arrived from the State of Gawgy. In answer to certain letters of inquiry received during the week I should like to say:

"The club am pledged to no pettier sort of religion.

"We have no pollyticks as a club, but as individuals we cast our votes in favor of honest and respectable men. It am so seldom that we find honest, respectable men running for office, however, that we may as well stay home on Leckshun day to clean out the cistern or repair de pig-pen.

"Our aim am to elevate de oulled race. If de race ain't fo' pegs higher in matters of science, philosophy, economy an' art dan it was five y'ars ago it ain't our fault.

"We have no partnership wid legislative bodies, an' we enter into no alliance wid odder clubs or societies.

"We believe in a hereafter, charge seventy-five cents fur whitewashin' an ordinary cellin', an' any pussen desirin' stoves blacked in de moas' conducive manner should give de job to a member of de Lime-Killing Club. Let us now proceed."

Sir Isaac Walpole brought out a brand new bean box and a pint of fresh beans, and in ten minutes the following candidates were neatly and legally elected: Paradox Jones, Col. Carr, Shakespeare Smith, Rev. Job Pulser, Lord William O'Flynn, Hon. Asteroid Greene and Endsavor Williams.

NOT ACCEPTED.

The secretary announced an official communication from the secretary of the Akron Dead Beat Society, of Akron, O., asking to be admitted in a body to the Lime-Kiln Club. Their creed was: "Trust to-day, pay to-morrow." Their party platform: "Two dollars a day and no work." Their object in life: "To beat the human race."

Brother Gardner read the communication over slowly and then dropped it out of the window into the alley.

HIS ADVICE.

A communication from Halifax contained this inquiry: "In case a member of the club joins the Good Templars and finds he can't let whiskey alone, what would be good advice to him?"

"My advice would be fur him to go off an' drown himself," replied the president. When I hear tell of a man who can't let whiskey alone I set him down as an idiot who had better take himself out of de world. A man who can't spit on his hands an' lick his appetite in a stan' up fight should hev been bo'n a cow."

REMITTED.

Giveadam Jones offered a resolution that the fine imposed on Elder Toots for disturbing a meeting a few weeks ago be remitted. The disturbance was created by falling down stairs and breaking a door, and Elder Toots never fell down stairs when he could avoid it. He might have made less noise, but he paid for the door and was anxious to be reinstated.

The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote and the president declared the fine remitted.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

Some time since Samuel Shin let an old tinpan full of ashes fall upon Whyfore Davis as the latter was entering the hall by way of Legislative Alley. There has been a coldness between them ever since, and Brother Davis has several times asserted that he would pulverize Brother Shin to a lifeless mass in case he could catch him out on a rabbit hunt. At the present meeting, and a few minutes before the triangle sounded, Brother Davis received word that his mother, residing in West Virginia, was dead. This softened his feelings and prepared his heart for a reconciliation, and he walked up to Brother Shin and extended his hand and bridged the awful chasm. He afterwards ascertained that his mother had been dead eleven years, but he had made up the coldness and he did not back out, as a less honorable man would have done.

AN OFFER REJECTED.

The secretary then announced an official communication from the secretary of the Anti-Buttermilk Society, of Dupont Banks, Del., asking to be admitted to the Lime-Kiln Club as a body, with authority to work on the third degree. The letter of application announced the fact that the society was of the opinion that buttermilk was the bane of the present age. Investigation had revealed the fact that the greatest consumers of the fluid were those most obstinately arrayed against the society and the law. Out of twenty-two murderers questioned by the society, nineteen admitted their fondness for buttermilk. Train robbers, burglars, cowboys and all the prominent embezzlers were buttermilk drinkers, and the society had started on a crusade which would not end until the churn was forbidden by law.

The secretary was instructed to reply that the Lime-Kiln Club did not care for such an alliance, having used buttermilk for the last seven years with the most gratifying results.

The librarian reported that he had lately received several historical works, two volumes of poetry, three pamphlets on love and a hymn book. The library was now open six evenings per week, from 7 to 10 o'clock, and the average attendance for the past month was sixty-eight.

The janitor reported that he had paid out twenty-seven cents for tin to nail over rat-holes.

The committee on judiciary reported a petition from Syracuse asking the club to

use its influence to secure national legislation to make it a penal offense for any person to deliver a Fourth of July oration within two miles of any crowd of people.

The keeper of the Sacred Relics reported the mysterious disappearance of the hat worn by De Soto when he discovered the Mississippi river, and for three or four minutes consternation was depicted on every countenance. It was then learned that Pickles Smith had taken the hat to carry home some carrots from the market. He was given such a raking down as few men ever live through, and was then allowed thirteen minutes in which to gallop a mile and a half and return with the sacred relic.

RESOLUTION.

Waydown Beebe then offered the following resolution:

"Resolved, Dat while dis club am constitutionally opposed to lynch law de members stan' ready to pull on de rope if dar' am any lack of help."

Trustee Pullback demanded the yeas and nays, and the resolution was adopted by a majority of 64.

The lamps being on the point of going out, the meeting sang a poem and adjourned to the banquet hall.

UNDERGROUND STREETS.

The Modern City Streets Have Become So Crowded That New Means of Transit Must Be Devised.

If founders of cities could forecast accurately the needs of the growing communities which were to occupy them, they would save a great deal of trouble to their descendants. Because they cannot do this many a prosperous city finds its development impeded by narrow and crooked streets, whose lines were fixed by the less complex demands of an earlier day.

The history of civilization might be traced in the evolution of streets. There is first the footpath, irregular and capricious; then the rough cart-road; then a somewhat better road, with a footpath at the side; until through several stages the city street, well-paved, drained and lighted, with wide sidewalks is reached.

But there is a still later stage. The streets become crowded with cars, wagons and pedestrians, and to avoid peril and tedious delay new means of transit must be devised. The result is what may be called two-story streets, through which travel moves along parallel lines, but at different levels. One expedient is the elevated railroad; another is the subway or underground street.

TUNNELS FOR STREET TRAFFIC

have been built in several European cities. There are three in operation in London, one in Glasgow, one in Liverpool under the Mersey, and one in Paris, the Chemin de Fer de Ceinture, which is a combination of surface road, open cut, tunnel and viaduct. There are six other tunnels for street traffic in process of construction, two in London, three in Glasgow, and one in Paris. At least five more are proposed in London.

The only tunnel in which electricity is used as the motive power is one in London. It was built by what is called, from the name of the inventor, the Greathead system. Practically, it consists of two cast-iron tubes, three and a half miles long and ten and a half feet in diameter.

In making this tunnel, what are called shields, with cutting edges, were driven into the soil by the force of hydraulic presses from behind, and as rapidly as the excavation was complete to the requisite diameter, segments of iron were put in place and bolted together, forming a continuous tube built in successive rings. The tubes are from forty to eighty feet underground.

The cars fit the tunnel closely and secure automatic ventilation, pushing the air before them, while fresh air flows in behind. As to ventilation inside the cars, that is another matter. The cars are kept closely shut because of the draught, and the air becomes heavy.

THE GLASGOW HARBOR TUNNEL,

under the Clyde, is to be a large three-tube affair, two tubes for vehicles and the third for pedestrians. The Blackwall tunnel under the Thames is also intended for vehicles and pedestrians. It will have a roadway of sixteen feet and two sidewalks.

In the United States, the only important projects for subways for street traffic are in New York and Boston. In New York the plans are well advanced, but construction has not been begun. In Boston the subway is in process of construction. It is not built by tunnelling, but by excavation from the surface.

The construction is of steel, imbedded in cement, with arches of brick or concrete turned between the steel girders. The length is one and one-third miles. The platforms are to be so constructed that there can be no crossing of tracks by passengers.

By an ingenious system the tracks are lowered or raised at certain points so that no car can cross the track of another car at grade. The top of the subway is only three feet below the surface, and the height is fourteen feet. It better deserves the name of an underground street than any of the European tunnels, for where there are four tracks it will be forty-eight feet wide, and where there are two tracks, twenty-four feet wide.

It will be lighted by electricity, and fresh air secured by ventilating fans, while the use of electricity as the motive power will avoid the pollution of the air incident to the use of steam.

Some Big Fish.

A despatch from Vancouver, B.C., says:—The fact that 10 large sturgeon have recently been taken without hooks, at one drift, with a strong salmon net, is likely to revolutionize the provincial river fishery. Three of the fish thus taken were exceptionally heavy, weighing over a quarter of a ton each, and the entire ten aggregated at least one and a half tons. These fish were caught without injury to the nets. Similar catches are also reported. A sturgeon weighing over 810 pounds was taken the other day near the Steveston Canneries.

MOST POWERFUL BANK.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND GREATEST IN THE WORLD.

History of this Remarkable Establishment—Projected by Wm. Paterson, a Scotchman, But His Countrymen Have Long Been Excluded from Employment in the Institution—The Notes of the Bank the Safest in the World.

In the current number of the Social Economist we find some interesting data relating to the most powerful of banking institutions, the Bank of England. The time is appropriate for reviewing the history of this remarkable establishment, since in the present year it celebrated its second century.

It is well known that the Bank of England was projected by William Paterson for the purpose of relieving William III. from the difficulties he experienced in raising the money needed for prosecuting the war with France. Paterson was a Scotchman, but his countrymen, in conjunction with Jews and Quakers, have long been excluded from employment in the institution, though the cause of the exclusion is said by the Social Economist to be unknown. It was probably the distrust with which the Jacobite proclivities of Scotchmen were regarded in the first half of the last century. Quakers would be barred out, because their principles would not permit them to use the resources of the establishment to further military operations. The discrimination against Jews is intelligible enough when we remember that the present century was well advanced before an Israelite was suffered to sit in the House of Commons.

By the terms of the charter, which was received July 27, 1694, the sum of £1,200,000 (\$6,000,000) was to be raised, and the subscribers were to form a corporation styled "The Governor and Company of the Bank of England." The bank was to have the privilege of keeping the accounts of the public debt, paying dividends, and issuing notes, for which an annual allowance of £4,000 was granted.

THE WHOLE OF THE CAPITAL

was to be loaned to the Government at 8 per cent.; this interest, with the allowance just named, gave the bank a revenue of £100,000 a year. Two years after the institution was started the capital was increased to £2,201,000. In 1726 it was again raised, this time to £5,500,000. On June 29, 1816, it was still further expanded to the present figure, £14,553,000, equal to about \$72,700,000. The debt of the Government to the bank which, as we have seen, was originally £1,200,000, was subsequently enlarged by various additions, until in 1816 it reached £14,680,000, one fourth of which, however, was afterward repaid. Since 1860 the amount has stood at £11,015,000, on which the bank now receives interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. We may here mention that the institution first issued notes in 1695; these were of the denomination of £20. The £10 notes were first put forth in 1759, and the £5 in 1793. For a time during the early part of this century notes of £1 and £2 were put in circulation, but in 1814 they were all withdrawn. At present no notes are issued for less than £5, and none for more than £1,000. The original charter gave the Bank of England the exclusive privilege of issuing notes payable on demand. Another fact worth remarking with regard to the notes is that they are all made in the bank building, and when once paid back into the bank, are never again put forth. After going through a process of cancellation they are kept for ten years and then totally destroyed. The notes, it is well known, are a legal tender everywhere in the United Kingdom, except at the bank itself, where, on presentation, they must be paid in gold.

The notes of the Bank of England are reputed

THE SAFEST PIECES OF PAPER

in the world. We are cautioned, however, by the Social Economist against the inference that the institution has never been in difficulties. It failed in 1696, the second year after its organization. Frequently during the early part of its history it was subjected to runs, either due to political causes or started by jealous private bankers. Repeatedly have the management and policy of the bank been denounced; indeed, the controversial literature relating to it covers many shelves in the British Museum. There is no doubt that the criticism was sometimes well founded. The information, for instance, collected by Parliamentary committees between the years 1797 and 1819 bears witness to the reckless conduct of the directors at that period. In the panic of 1825, in which no fewer than 770 banks in Great Britain failed, the Bank of England itself was shaken. Its accumulations of gold drifted away, owing to the turn in foreign exchange, and in December the bank, which at the beginning of the year had over £14,000,000 in gold, had only £1,000,000 left. A way out of the difficulty was found in the issue of some £1 notes found in an old chest which had been forgotten, but which were discovered in the nick of time.

From 1695 to 1721 the Bank of England was installed in offices at the Grocers' Hall in the Poultry. About 160 years ago it moved to Threadneedle street, where it occupies a

MASSIVE ONE-STORY BUILDING

covering over three and a half acres of ground, and holding the unique position of being situated in four parishes. In a part of the basement are barracks, where soldiers have been quartered from 7 p. m. to 7 a. m. ever since the riots of June, 1780, when an attempt was made to sack the bank. In the vaults, where bullion, specie, and other valuables are stored, may be seen a large collection of gold ornaments, rude in execution but in many cases admirable in design; these are the residue of the Ashantee indemnity, much of which was melted down and coined. Passing from the building to its occupants we observe that the Governor and Deputy Governor receive each a salary of £1,000 a year. Of the twenty-four directors each receives an annual compensation of £500, but to qualify for the office he must hold £2,000

of the bank's stock. In all, there are no fewer than 1,050 persons employed in the Bank.

We note, finally, the fact that makes this institution the center of England's financial system; the fact, namely, that all other banks keep their bullion reserves at the Bank of England. According to the Social Economist this reserve of bullion is seldom allowed to fall below £10,000,000; it appears that from £10,000,000 to £14,000,000 is a fair daily average. As regards the bank's earning power we learn that the highest dividend ever paid by it was 27½ per cent. in 1897, and the lowest was 4½ per cent., during the years 1753-63. For twenty years the dividend has averaged about 10 per cent.

VESUVIUS IS GROWING.

The Volcano 150 Feet Higher Than It Was a Few Months Ago.

Recent dispatches telling of the streams of lava at Vesuvius will cause no surprise to any one who has visited the volcano within the last three months. It has been steadily puffing and spouting during that time, heaving out showers of molten lava and glowing by night until the clouds of vapor above it took on the appearance of rolling flames. Two days before the recent outpour from a break in the cone the shell of the older crater trembled from the working of the lava underneath, and the peculiar sound of the hissing and growling which accompanied each small eruption could be heard two miles away.

Vesuvius is 150 feet higher than it was six months ago. The constant showers of porous lava have filled in one side of the old hollow crater and have built up the new cone, which, from its bold outlines, has greatly changed the appearance of the summit, and is still changing it slightly every day. Formerly the volcano, as seen from Naples, had a rounded top, but now it comes to a wedge point. A year ago visitors looked into the hollow of the old and somewhat cooled-off crater. Of late they have gone inside the boundaries of the old crater to get a good look at the new cone, from the summit of which at intervals of a few minutes there is a gust of steam laden with red-hot ashes, which are sent into the air 200 feet or more. Before the steam has drifted away there is another rumble, a sound of watery explosion, and another shower of ashes. Thus, from a distance in the daytime, there seems to be a constant curl of white vapor from the summit, but at night each separate eruption throws up a vivid light, which then fades away to a dull glow.

The natives who live on the slope of the mountain said that after the new cone had been built somewhat higher it would fall in of its own weight, and close the present breathing hole. Then the mountain would be like a corked-up bottle. A new vent would have to be made, and in the making of this vent there would be a fierce eruption, an overflow of lava, and the formation of a new crater. Apparently the natives should be informed, as some of them had ancestors at Pompeii, and many remember distinctly the incidents of the fierce eruption of 1872, by which the present crater was formed.

SHOOTING AT A BALLOON.

Interesting Attack on Austrian Airships to See How They Would Stand a Volley of Bullets.

The use of the balloon for despatch-carrying and for military reconnaissance is likely to play a great part in the next war. Its only drawback is the fact that its huge size makes it a splendid target, and the equally damaging fact that, being chiefly a collapsible gas-bag, a shot-hole in any part of its great bulk brings it down. For this reason a good deal of uncertainty has existed in the minds of military men as to the usefulness of the balloon in campaigning.

Recent experiments in Austria, however, are calculated to give great comfort to the aeronauts, and to show that the objection just mentioned is not so great as might be supposed. These experiments had for their object the determination of how easy it would be to hit a balloon in the air. To make the task of the marksmen as light as possible, captive balloons were used; that is, the balloons were tethered to the ground by ropes. In one case, such a balloon, at a height of 4,265 feet, or more than three-quarters of a mile, was fired at from a distance of 4,400 yards (two and a half miles) and was struck nine times without being brought down. Another time a captive balloon 3,625 feet high, was attacked from a distance of 5,500 yards, or more than three miles, and was not brought down until after the fifty-sixth round. In this case a heavy gale made the balloon plunge, and rendered aim very difficult.

The Rival Singers.

Mr. Richiello—That was a neat speech Miss Soprano made at the charity concert last night, when a brute in the audience hissed her. I wonder how she could think of so many bright things all at once.

Miss Contralto—Oh, she's made that speech hundreds of times.

Stark Mad.

Lawyer—Did you examine this lady carefully before certifying that she was insane?

Physician—Yes, sir. I asked her age, and she made herself out two years older than she was.

Chemistry in the Kitchen.

Young Husband (severely)—My love, these biscuits are sour, horribly sour.

Young Wife (who took the chemistry prize at boarding school)—I forgot to add the soda, my dear; but, never mind. After tea we can walk out and get some soda water.

An Alabama father has taught all his children to read with their books upside down.

THE HOME.

To Successfully "Slip" Delicate Plants.

Prepare a soil of one-third leaf mold and two-thirds fine, clean sand thoroughly mixed, and then in an old pan set two small flower pots, if the pan be oblong, at equal distances from the ends, fill in around them with sand and mold until the pan is full up to the top, then pour water in the pots until all the earth is damped. It will soak through the holes in the bottoms of the pots and moisten the soil evenly.

In this dampened sand put the cuttings so that a bud or sprout is under ground, pressing the soil firmly about the stem. By taking the cuttings from the green growth of shrubby plants they are almost certain to grow, and roots may be expected to form in about ten days.

Usually the pots need to be filled but twice a week, as the sand stays moist a long time, but careful watching will teach when to give more water. The sand must not be allowed to get so dry as to cause the cuttings to wilt, for if they do so it is very hard to make them revive. After several new leaves have formed, take a knife and cut a square of sand around the stem of the plant to be taken out, lift it carefully up and set it in a pan of water, leaving it for a few minutes until all the sand is washed away; then, having a small pot ready with drainage and an inch of leaf mold, set the wee plant in and gently fill in around with leaf mold. Always firm the soil lightly in the pot, then water and keep in the shade for a few days, gradually bringing into full sunshine.

In rooting especially delicate plants it may be advantageous to put them in a glass of water for a few days before setting in the sand, as they root more quickly. Another wise precaution is never to stick the cuttings down through the sand, but always make a hole with a small stick first, as pushing the stems in injures the end so that the cutting often fails to root—and be careful not to keep the sand too wet.

When the slips are ready for transplanting, slip a broad bladed knife underneath in such a way as not to disturb the sand around the tender roots, bringing up the tiny plant intact. Lay it gently in a dish of water to wash the sand away before depositing it in the roomy hole made for it in rich, moist earth. Fill in with lightly placed earth and set in a dark corner for a few days before treating it as a full fledged plant.

Uses for Apples.

Fried Apples.—Select only moderately tart apples, cut in slices across so that they will be circular; let the slices be half an inch thick. Brown in hot fat in a frying-pan and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Apple Jelly for Cakes.—Grate one large apple and add the juice and grated rind of one lemon, mix with them one cup of white sugar, and let boil for three minutes. Use immediately. This makes a delicious filling for layer cakes.

Apple Dessert.—Fill a quart bowl with alternate layers of thinly sliced apples and sugar, add half a cup of water, cover with a saucer held in place by a weight, and bake slowly for three hours. Let it stand until cold, and it will turn out a round mass of clear red slices imbedded in delicious jelly. For an accompaniment to a dessert of blanc mange, junket, custard, cold rice pudding, etc., there is nothing prettier or more satisfactory, and it is the most easily prepared of all desserts.

Apple Shortcake.—Season good apple sauce with butter, sugar, etc.; make a nice shortcake, open and butter it, and spread with the apple sauce in layers. Serve with sweetened whipped cream.

Apple Custard Pie.—Peel, core, and stew apples in a very little water until tender, put them through a colander, and for one pie take three eggs, one-third cup of butter, one-third cup of sugar, and flavor with nutmeg and lemon; use one cup of the apple pulp to each pie, and only the yolks of the eggs, making a meringue with the whites for the top.

Apple Pudding.—Peel, slice, and stew in a little water until soft enough to mash six medium tart apples. Into the sauce which they make stir a large tablespoonful of butter, three of sugar, and the juice and grated yellow rind of a lemon. Stir two tablespoonfuls of flour into two cupfuls of grated bread crumbs, mix this with the apples, and then stir in two well beaten eggs. If the mixture is too thick, add a few spoonfuls of water. Turn into a buttered pudding dish, and bake for forty minutes. Serve with hard sauce.

Two Tested Recipes.

Ginger Bread.—One egg; 1 cup sugar; 1 cup molasses; 1 cup lard; 1 cup sour milk; 4 teaspoonfuls soda; 2 tablespoonfuls of ginger. Flour to roll soft or to stir with a large spoon. This is a large recipe.

Corn Bread.—Two cups sour milk; cup molasses; 2 cups corn meal; 1½ cup flour; small teaspoonful soda and a little salt. Steam three hours, then set in the oven to brown. To be eaten hot. These are both well tested recipes.

"Silence"

The readers of Shakespeare will recognize "Silence" as a family name in old England, and it still exists, though it is not usual. An English judge in a provincial court recently called up a simple-looking lady as a witness.

Madam? cried the judge, pompously.

Thir (Sir)?

What is your name?

The woman lifted her eyes.

Silence, sir.

Madam, there is no need of any evasion.

I repeat, what is your name?

I said Silence, thir.

I know you did. Now no more trifling; instantly give me your whole name.

Sally Silence, thir.

Railway travelling in Norway is cheaper than in any European country.